

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 EB-07 CU-02 TRSE-00

ARA-06 /078 W

-----021314Z 093120 /40

R 021226Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1156

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: MAY 1 LABOR DAY IN PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: PCP DOMINATED CGTP MAY 1 RALLIES BUT DOWNPLAYED
PARTISAN ROLE IN ORDER TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT CGTP IS A
DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION. SOCIALISTS DID NOT PARTICI-
PATE IN CGTP RALLIES. SPLIT BETWEEN PCP AND SOCIALISTS
IN LABOR NOW CLEARER THAN EVER. END SUMMARY.

1. MAIN MAY 1 ACTIVITIES OCCURRED IN LISBON WHERE ESTIMATED
45,000 WORKERS AND STUDENTS PARADED THROUGH STREETS TO A
STADIUM RALLY SPONSORED BY THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF
PORTUGUESE WORKERS (CGTP). NO INCIDENTS MARRED OCCASION.

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2. IN ACCORD WITH CURRENT COMMUNIST PARTY AND CGTP EMPHASIS
ON LABOR UNITY, RED FLAGS AND SIGNS CARRIED BY DEMONSTRATORS
WERE DEVOID OF PCP SYMBOLS. ALL SPEAKERS WERE FROM CGTP.
CHANTS AND SPEAKERS CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON THEME OF LABOR
UNITY. LESSER ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO ATTACKS ON HIGH COST
OF LIVING, AND ON GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED "SOCIAL CONTRACT."

3. MAJOR SPEAKER WAS PS RENEGADE KALIDAS BARRETO, MEMBER OF CGTP SECRETARIAT, WHO ATTACKED "OUR ADVERSARIES" FOR CRITICIZING CGTP AS BEING UNDEMOCRATIC AND NON-REPRESENTATIVE. BARRETO HEAVILY CHEERED BY CROWD WHICH, JUDGING BY NUMBER GIVING RIGHT FIST SALUTE, WAS 75 PERCENT PCP.

4. SEVENTEEN FOREIGN LABOR DELEGATIONS WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING WFTU, USSR, POLAND, GDR, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, BULGARIA, CUBA, CHILE (CUT). ITALY (CGIL), AND FRANCE (CGT) WERE ONLY TWO DELEGATIONS FROM WESTERN EUROPE. A GROUP OF SWEDES MARCHED IN PARADE AND RECEIVED CHEERS FROM CROWD BUT WERE NOT INTRODUCED AS A FOREIGN DELEGATION.

4. IN SPITE OF EMPHASIS ON LABOR UNITY, SOME 4,000 FAR LEFT UDP WORKERS WHO BROUGH UP REAR OF PARADE WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER STADIUM FOR RALLY. UDP WORKERS CHANTED OWN SET OF SLOGANS, NOTABLY MORE MILITANT THAN THOSE USED BY THE PCP. STADIUM WAS NOT FILLED TO CAPACITY, BUT LAST DELEGATIONS OF PCP WORKERS KEPT ENTRANCE BLOCKED, PREVENTING OTHERS FROM ENTERING.

5. CGTP ALSO HELD RALLY IN OPORTO. AMCONSUL OPORTO ESTIMATES 10,000 WORKERS IN CENTRAL SQUARE HEARD UNION LEADERS ATTACK HIGH COST OF LIVING AND CALL FOR LABOR UNITY.

6. SOCIALIST LABOR LEADERS MEET: PS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN CGTP-SPONSORED MAY 1 ACTIVITIES. SOCIALISTS INVITED 300 UNION LEADERS TO CLOSED MEETING IN OPORTO. PSD DID NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPONSOR MAY 1 ACTIVITY. MINOR PARTIES, INCLUDING PCP M-1 AND PCTP/MRPP, HELD MINISCULE DEMONSTRATIONS IN LISBON.

7. COMMENT: LISBON DEMONSTRATION WAS HEAVILY DOMINATED BY THE PCP IN SPITE OF A LACK OF PARTY SYMBOLS. MANEUVER TO EXCLUDE UDP WORKERS FROM STADIUM SHOWS COMMUNISTS MAINTAIN ABILITY TO CONFOUND PLANS OF OTHER PARTIES. PARADE LACKED SAME DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION EVIDENT IN PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, HOWEVER, AND PRESENCE OF DELEGATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN TACTIC TO AUGMENT NUMBERS OF MARCHERS. MAY 1 MARKED FURTHER WIDENING OF SPLIT BETWEEN PCP AND SOCIALISTS IN LABOR. PS DECISION NOT TO HAVE ADHERENTS PARTICIPATE IN CGTP-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES CAUSED MARKED REDUCTION IN SIZE OF WORKER DELEGATIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES. CARLUCCI

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